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27 May 1952

CAREER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Working Group on Honor Awards

Minutes of 1st Meeting, 26 May 1952, 2:00 p.m.

Present:

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1. As proposed by memorandum of 23 May 1952 from the Executive Secretary, Career Service Committee, the ad hoc Working Group on Honor Awards convened at 1400, 26 May 1952 in 1058 "I" Building.

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2. [ ] told of his meeting with DCI on 26 May and set forth DCI's views in respect to an Honor Awards Program as follows:

a. The honor awards established should be applicable to all CIA personnel including military.

b. If possible, devise a system that does not require legislative authority but DCI will support one that does.

c. Draft recommendations as expeditiously as possible.

In commenting on the exhibit of awards used by other Agencies, DCI stated that he didn't think highly of the Medal of Freedom.

3. The Working Group then proceeded to consider the points raised in Paragraph 4 of the 23 May memorandum and arrived at the following conclusions:

a. The Honor Awards Program is separate from the Incentive and Efficiency Awards Program and only the former will be considered by the Working Group.

b. Awards for personal merit and group performance should be separate in order to give dignity and prestige to the individual award.

c. All personnel affiliated with CIA in any capacity should be eligible for any award established.

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b. [ ] who was called away from the meeting, asked that the security of the operation and the individual be considered paramount factors in determining the type and level of the award. In subsequent discussion, the Group agreed that Inspection and Security has, indeed, a fundamental interest in the arrangements and procedures for making an award, but its interest is not paramount in determining type and level. The matter of gaining I & S concurrence on approval was discussed, and it was agreed that this was a procedural matter which would be dealt with later.

5. In discussing the proposed CIA Regulation [ ] and comments of 12 March made in respect to it, the Group reached the opinion that a valor award was not called for and that up to 90% of Agency personnel would not have opportunity to qualify for such an award. It was agreed that awards finally recommended should be available for both achievement and valor.

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6. Paragraph 1c(4) of the proposed [ ] came under discussion from the standpoint that a CIA awards board should not attempt to monitor awards recommended by the Services for military personnel on duty with CIA, but should serve as a point of record for such awards. However, the Group reached the conclusion that military awards recommended for military personnel by CIA should receive action by the proposed awards board. It was further agreed that this principle should apply to awards of other Agencies for which CIA personnel may be eligible.

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7. [ ] proposed that long service awards also be considered by the Working Group, and it was agreed that these would be studied after honor awards recommendations are prepared.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1630 with the understanding that the Group will reconvene at 1000, 28 May in 1058 "L". [ ] will present a statement regarding the current status of the Medal for Merit, and Mr. [ ] will submit material concerning the awards system of other Agencies.

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